

UPDATE

OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION

Volume 5 • Number 6

November/December 1999

TN Receives Grant for Children with Special Needs

Recently, DMHMR Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser announced a \$12.75 million Children's Mental Health System of Care initiative for children with special needs.

The initiative is funded through a \$7.25 million federal grant supplemented with \$5.5 million in state matching funds. It will allow for a coordinated, accountable child and family-centered system of care.

The project will target children who are in imminent risk of state custody, hospitalization in residential placement, state custody and others who need appropriate services to enable them to live at home. Specific goals of the project include:

- Promote a parent-professionals-community partnership in the design, implementation and evaluation of the Nashville Connection.
- Ensure cultural competence.
- Provide access to an array of mental health services and natural supports tailored to children and families.
- Empower children and families.
- Facilitate informed decision making by engaging in continuous quality improvement and evaluation of the project.

The Nashville Connection coordinates parents, service providers, policy makers, health insurers and advocates on state and local levels to plan and implement a coordinated, accountable and effective system of care for children and youth with emotional/behavioral problems and their families.

The DMHMR implements the program at the state level. Tennessee Voices for Children oversees the program at the local level and serves as the local fiscal agent. A community council – parents, community leaders, providers and representatives from local children's agencies – serves as the chief advisory body.



Pictured at a press conference announcing the grant for children with special needs are (from left) DMHMR Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser; Nashville Health Department's Grants Coordinator on Substance Abuse Mary Kay Hamel; Tennessee Voices for Children Executive Director Charlotte Bryson; Commission on Children and Youth's Director of Children's Plan Outcome Review Pat Wade; Denine Northrup, Ph.D., Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies (VIPPS) Center for Mental Health Policy and director of National Evaluation Component of Nashville Connection; Assistant to the Governor Debi Tate; Back Row—DMHMR's Director of System of Care Development Sandra Daigneau-Health; Centerstone CMHC's Vice President for Children's Services John Page; and Department of Children's Services Special Assistant to the Commissioner Mary Beth Franklyn.

State Agencies Cooperate On Plan for Farm Families Facing Crisis

The DMHMR and the Tennessee Mental Health Association are cooperating in a state wide effort to provide assistance to farm families facing tough choices during a time of financial crisis.

"When income doesn't cover expenses over a period of time, families face tough choices," said Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser. "Decisions on finances or finding alternative employment can lead to emotional anxiety."

Rukeyser said Tennessee's DMHMR supported community mental health agencies and clinics are available to provide counseling for stress, family and emotional programs. "When needed, referrals may also be made to other agencies," she continued.

For information, contact your local community mental health center or provider.

CTT(s) Will Continue

DMHMR Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser said recently funding will continue on the Continuous Treatment Teams (CTTs)—teams of mental health professionals who provide intensive case management and a range of clinical treatment, rehabilitation and support services to a specific caseload of consumers.

"CTTs are very important to our continuum of care for people with mental illness. We are pleased with this decision to continue funding," said Rukeyser.

Continuous Treatment Teams began in 1989-90 with a pilot grant from the Division of Mental Health Services to the Mental Health Cooperative. In 1990-91, four grants were awarded and by Fiscal 1993-94, over \$6 million were awarded resulting in at least one grant in each of Tennessee's seven mental health regions.

Update

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State of Tennessee
Don Sundquist, Governor



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Ben Dishman, Deputy Commissioner
Melanie Hampton, Asst. Commissioner
Mental Health Services
Barbara Brent, Deputy Commissioner
Mental Retardation Services
Mack Rhea, Acting Asst. Commissioner
Administrative Services

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(615) 532-6610 - FAX (615) 741-4557
Martha Robinson, Director
Patricia Fortner, Editor
Carol Smith, Associate Editor
Linny Parker, Circulation

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Around the State

Centerstone to Offer Services at Elam MHC

Dr. John E. Maupin, president of Meharry
Medical College, said Centerstone
Community Mental Health Centers will
begin providing outpatient mental health
services operating as the Elam Mental Health
Clinic in January.

Maupin said that under the terms of a
Memorandum of Understanding approved by
both institutions, Centerstone will contract
with Meharry's Department of Psychiatry,
Neurology and Behavioral Sciences to
provide medical, research and expanded
educational training services.

The agreement with Centerstone will not
affect the delivery of services under the
Meharry Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program.
These services will remain part of the
Meharry program under the Lloyd C. Elam
Mental Health Center.



New NAMI President, Gene Pool, is pictured with
NAMI Executive Director Joyce Judge.

NAMI-Tennessee Elects Officers; Honors Rep. Eckles

The National Alliance for the Mentally
Ill — Tennessee elected new officers at its
annual convention.

They are: Gene Pool, Spring City,
president; vice presidents — Leslie El Sayad,
East Tennessee; Ken Cohen, Middle
Tennessee; Dix Archer, West Tennessee.

Ann Nolan was elected secretary. Bill
Busing is the new treasurer and Beverly
Schultz is the organization's parliamentarian.

Also at the convention, NAMI honored
Title 33 Revision Commission member Rep.
Mary Ann Eckles as its Legislator of the Year.
The group praised her for advocacy on behalf
of persons with mental illness. The
convention was held in Johnson City.

TennCare Partners Brochure Available

About *TennCare Partners*, a brochure
providing information on definitions and
descriptions, important telephone numbers,
complaint procedures and frequently asked
questions is now available.

For a copy, contact the Tennessee
Department of Mental Health & Mental
Retardation; Office of Public Information &
Education; 11th Floor; Andrew Johnson
Tower; 710 James Robertson Parkway;
Nashville, TN 37243 - (615) 532-6610 or e-
mail mrobinson@mail.state.tn.us



State employees had many opportunities for free depression screenings at work sites on October 7 — National
Depression Screening Day. These were simultaneous with hundreds offered to the public by mental health
professionals and advocacy groups statewide.

Around the State

Licensure Schedules Training Sessions

Operators of Middle Tennessee mental health supportive living facilities and mental retardation boarding homes had access to state-of-the-art information on licensure regulations at recent training conferences.

Four simultaneous conferences were held "to ensure that all operators had an opportunity to attend," said Ann Turner Brooks, director of the Middle Tennessee Licensure Office.

This is the 22nd year that these training conferences have been made available by the DMHMR Middle Tennessee licensure staff.



The Nashville Licensure Training conference was held at the Roger Heights Baptist Church. From left to right - the Reverend Joseph Barlow, representing the Reverend C.R. Williams Charity Mission Home; Sandy Reynolds, district ombudsman for the Commission on Aging; Metro Councilman Melvin Black; Senator Thelma Harper; Janie Ganaway, owner of Amerikare, Inc., Nashville; Pat Byrd, owner, Pulaski Veteran's Home; and Edgar Covington of Covington's Care Home, Nashville.

TAMHO Elects Officers

The Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO) recently elected officers for 2000. The election was held at the organization's annual meeting in Memphis.

Jim Causey, Ph.D., executive director of Professional Counseling Services in Covington, was chosen president. He succeeds Gene Lawrence, executive director of the Southeast Mental Health Center in Memphis.

E. Douglas Varney, president and CEO of Frontier Health in Johnson City, was elected president elect for 2000.

Robert Vaughn, executive director of the Carey Counseling Center in Paris, was chosen treasurer. George Spain, chief executive officer of Centerstone Mental Health Centers in Middle Tennessee, was elected secretary.

Clover Bottom Honors Anderson, Akers

Two Clover Bottom Developmental Center employees were honored at a service awards and appreciation day in October.

Martha Anderson, a developmental technician since 1978, was named Employee of the Year, 1999. Dr. Phillip Akers, physician director, was honored as manager of the year. Akers joined the Clover Bottom staff in June of 1994.

The presentations were made by Frances Washburn, interim superintendent, and Director of the West Tennessee Regional Office and former CBDC superintendent Bernard Simons.

Sundquist Names Two to Revision Commission

In October, Governor Don Sundquist named Bonnie White, West Tennessee Bridges education coordinator, and Scott Finney, administrative assistant with the Arc of Tennessee, to the Title 33 Revision Commission.

White replaces Irene Russell. Finney replaces Bonita Scott.

Cumberland Mental Health Joins Volunteer Behavioral Health Care

Cumberland Mental Health Services (CMHS), formerly the Wilson County Mental Health Center, merged with the Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System in August.

Cumberland is the fifth supported organization to join the Volunteer organization.

Dr. B.L. Freeman, vice president and CEO, said Jim Harding, Cumberland's executive director, is now director of corporate services. Greg Lewis was named regional center director for all CMHS locations.

Volunteer Behavioral Health includes Johnson Mental Health Center in Chattanooga, Hiwassee at Cleveland, Plateau in Cookeville, the Guidance Center in Murfreesboro and Cumberland.

The combined Volunteer program now serves a population base of more than 1,205,000 citizens in a 29-county area. Services are available in 38 separate locations.

TAMHO Awards Honor professionals

Six professionals were recognized recently by the Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations for outstanding contributions to Tennessee's citizens with mental illness.

Deborah Taylor "Debi" Tate, assistant to the governor, received the 1999 TAMHO President's Award for her contributions as liaison between TAMHO and the state on matters involving TennCare Partners.

Michael W. Barton of Nashville was awarded the 1999 Frank G. Clement Award. Barton, CEO of PriCare, a physician practice management company and a board member of Dede Wallace Mental Health Center, played a pivotal role in its affiliation with three other centers to form Centerstone.

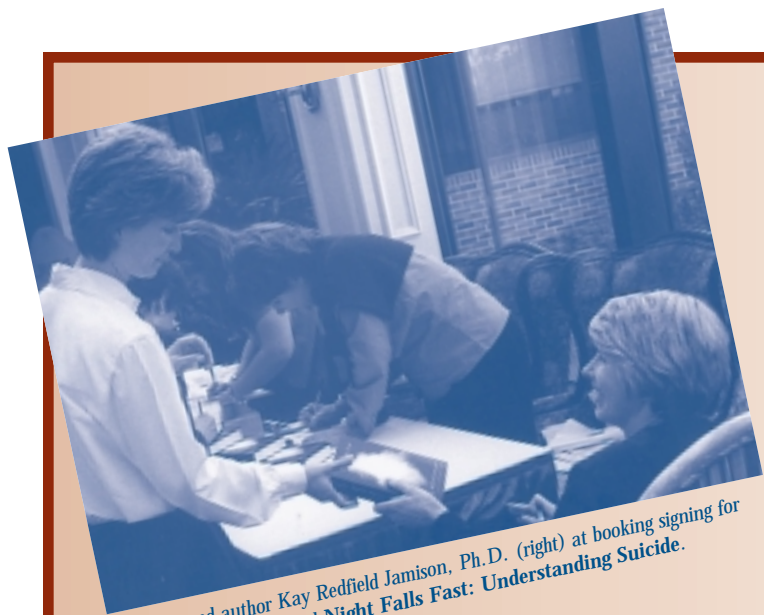
James A. Harding, executive director of Cumberland Mental Health Services in

Lebanon, won the 1999 Dorothea Dix Award for outstanding contributions particularly in the area of children's services.

The 1999 Distinguished Service Award went to George Spain, chief executive officer of Centerstone Community Mental Health Centers, for extraordinary and long-term dedication.

TAMHO's Community Service Award, new this year, was presented to Martha Anne Withers of Knoxville. Withers represents many thousands of volunteers who give of their time and energy to support the efforts of Tennessee's community mental health organizations.

WJHL-TV in Johnson City won TAMHO's 1999 Media Award for its special commitment to increasing public awareness of mental health issues.



Speaker and author Kay Redfield Jamison, Ph.D. (right) at book signing for **An Unquiet Mind** and **Night Falls Fast: Understanding Suicide**.



Elsie and Jerry Weyrauch, co-founders of SPAN/USA and the Atlanta-based Survivors of Suicide Support Team are pictured with grammy winning artist CeCe Winans at the opening dinner for survivors of suicide attempts.



Developing Suicide Prevention Strategies.



Gwen Hamer, who coordinated the efforts of the Departments of Health and Mental Health and Mental Retardation, in bringing the conference together, received an award from SPAN/TN.

CeCe Winans talks with conference attendees.



Addressing Neurobiology of Suicide: Implications for Prevention and Treatment was Ghanshyam Pandey, Ph.D. psychopharmacologist and professor, Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Chicago.



Vicki Yates, Channel 5 News in Nashville, was moderator of the Luncheon Session.



Joseph Autry, III, M.D., acting deputy administrator, SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spoke on Substance Abuse and Suicide.



Neurobiology and the Risk for Suicidal Behavior was addressed by John Mann, M.D., professor of psychiatry at Columbia University and Chair of Neuroscience, New York, N.Y.



HHS DECA and Jason Foundation meet the Surgeon General-Hendersonville High School DECA chose the Jason Foundation as recipient of its Civic Consciousness Project. The goal is to create awareness, educate and raise funds to be used in preventing teen suicide. Pictured (from left) Dan McClunkin, Casey Wall, Michelle Ray, Satcher, Clark Flatt (Founder and CEO of the Jason Foundation) and Michael Barnes.

George Haley, president of the Mental Health Planning Council, confers with Dr. Fredia Wadley, commissioner of the Department of Health.



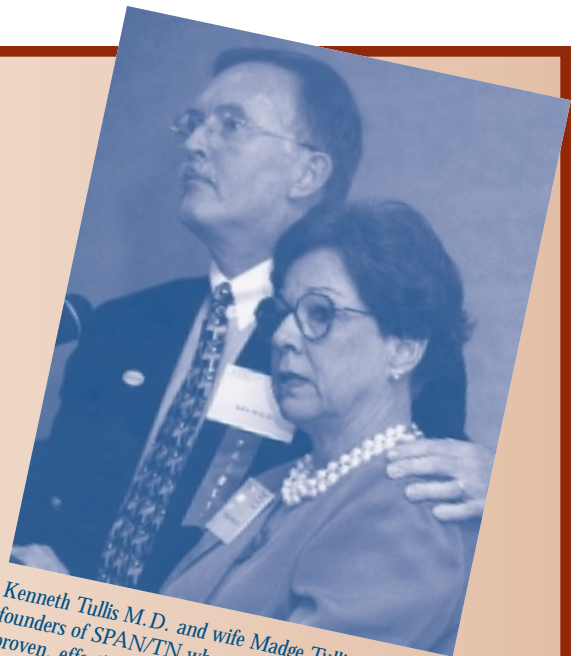
Dr. David Satcher is flanked by Conference Moderator Dr. Judy Regan (Left) and DMHMR's Director of Public Information Martha Robinson who provided his introduction.



Virginia Trotter Betts, M.S.N., J.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., senior advisor on Nursing and Policy to the U.S. Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Health, talked about Accepting the Public Sector's Responsibility for the National Strategy.



Yolanda Shields, executive director of Sharing the Vision, Nashville was a Teen Suicide Panelist.



Kenneth Tullis M.D. and wife Madge Tullis—founders of SPAN/TN whose mission is to create a proven, effective, statewide Tennessee Suicide Prevention Strategy—were key leaders in bringing about the conference.



DMHMR Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser presents award to Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher.

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Conference Attracts 600

Nearly 600 people attended the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Conference in October in Nashville. The conference was modeled after the National Suicide Prevention Conference in Reno, Nevada, which produced the original draft of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States and is increasing for young persons, African American young men, and adults over 65. Suicide attempts are estimated to exceed 750,000 annually with 95 percent of those who commit or attempt suicide having a diagnosed mental illness. Families of those who commit suicide create a population of over 4 million mourners in this country.

A toll free hotline 1-888-SUICIDE is staffed by more than 1,000 volunteers .

Poussant Addresses Mental Health At Minority Health Summit



Dr. Alvin Poussant, script consultant to the famed "Cosby Show" shared insights on "Gaining and Keeping Good Mental Health" at the 4th Annual Minority Health Summit.

Poussant is one of the country's top authorities on family dynamics, inter-personal communications and stress management which is a key component to achieving good mental health.

He works with corporate managers on the origins and management of stress-related work issues and on diversity in the workplace.

Poussant is director of the Media Center of the Judge Baker Children's Center in Boston and serves as clinical professor of psychiatry and Faculty Associate Dean for Student Affairs at Harvard Medical School. He is a life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a member of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry. The Summit was convened by the Office of Minority Health and the Black Health Care Commission



Carol Shockley (left) and Elaine Miller (center) were two of the Hiwassee Mental Health Center staff who assisted their North Carolina neighbors, recent victims of flooding. They helped to acquire much needed supplies for use in the clean up and restoration effort. Eddy Dyer assisted.



President of the Board of Directors Ray Sissom and Director Faye Sasser are captured at the Friends Helping Friends Drop In-Center open house held in October.

Friends Helping Friends Drop-In Center Holds Open House

Nashville's Friends Helping Friends Drop In-Center celebrated its 10th Anniversary in October with an open house.

Initially funded through a DMHMR block grant, the program now receives financial support from the Frist Foundation, the Junior League, a Memorial grant and the DMHMR, as well as individual contributions.

Ray Sissom, president of the board of directors, says achievement is based on consumers and professionals working together. "On an average day, 30 to 50 consumers come to the center. We have just finished a strategic planning session on many innovative ideas that we feel will help empower our consumers."

Friends Helping Friends was the first drop-in center to open in Tennessee. It has served as a model for the formation of others.

Centerstone CMHC Promotes 13 Employees

Centerstone Community Mental Health Centers recently announced the promotion of 13 key employees.

Centerstone president David Guth said David Grimes, vice president for adult services, was promoted to senior vice president for adult services.

In similar moves, Ben Middleton became senior vice president for core services. And John Page is the new senior vice president for child, adolescent and family services.

Sallie Allen, director for office services, was named vice president for that area. Tricia Carswell, director for development, was promoted to vice president for that service.

Others receiving promotions included Christy Hooper to vice president for human resources; Joe Moore to vice president of finance; Brad Nunn to vice president for quality improvement/quality assurance; Cynthia Turner-Graham, M.D., from medical



David Grimes



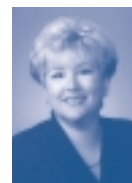
Ben Middleton



John Page



Sallie Allen



Tricia Carswell



Christy Hooper



Joe Moore



Brad Nunn



Cynthia
Turner-Graham



Thom Garrison



Rudy Gregory



Beth Hail



Scott Valentine

director to vice president for medical services; and Thom Garrison, former regional coordinator, to director of core services for the northern region.

Guth also said Rudy Gregory, formerly program coordinator for core services, was

named director of core services in the Columbia area; Beth Hail was named director of school-based services; and Scott Valentine was promoted to director of medical records.



Advocates, professionals and other interested individuals gathered in Nashville in October to discuss issues on the Americans with Disabilities Act. Front row from left - Patrick Neazer, private consultant; and Darren Jernigan, private consultant on the ADA. Back row - Dennis Beard, chief DMHMR investigator; Angela Baird, director of Adult Services, LMHI; and Leanne Lyon, training officer, MBMHI.

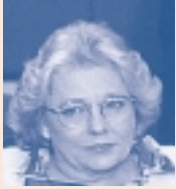


The Dual Diagnosis Recovery Network in Nashville recently hosted an open house and ribbon cutting for its new bookstore and recovery center. Ribbons were cut by assistant commissioners Melanie Hampton of Mental Health Services and Dr. Stephanie Perry of the Department of Health Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services. The center is located at 1302 Division Street in Nashville.

Happenings

- Peninsula Behavioral Health recently opened a drop-in center in Maryville. Located in the Five Points area at 1431 East Harper Avenue, the program serves Blount, Knox, Loudon, Monroe and Sevier counties. The program includes activities, support groups, socialization and education.
- Dr. Kelly Blair, a neuropsychologist at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, recently received diplomate status from the American Board of Professional Psychology.
- Child & Family, Inc. which provides a variety of services — Adoptions, Family Preservation and HomeStretch — to middle and east Tennesseans — recently changed its name to Child & Family Tennessee.
- The Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare will host its Spring Training Conference 2000, March 27, 28 and 29, 2000 at the Loews Vanderbilt Plaza in Nashville. For information, call (615) 353-8000.
- Four psychiatrists were recently added to the staff of Mental Health Cooperative, Inc. Dr. Alan Lynch was named medical director. Dr. Beth Baxter is the new associate medical director. Dr. Reena Camoens recently joined as staff psychiatrist serving Davidson, Sumner and the Dickson County offices. Dr. Rudra Prakash is the staff psychiatrist working out of the Davidson County office.
- Valley Ridge Mental Health Center, part of Volunteer Behavioral Health, recently opened The Excel Program at 200 Public Square in Lafayette. Excel, a goal oriented program for mental health consumers, was established with a grant from Premier Behavioral Health Systems. It serves persons in Macon, Smith, Clay and Jackson counties.
- Generations, a program that addresses the emotional and behavioral needs of adults over age 65, recently opened in Dickson. Operated by the Horizon Medical Center, Generations offers a combination of services aimed at redeveloping living skills that will help individuals cope with problems associated with aging.
- Construction on Hilltop House, a residential group home in Cleveland, was completed last summer. Operated by the Hiwassee Mental Health Center, the program offers a continuum of services to persons with mental illness. It is the first in a series of homes planned by Hiwassee.
- In December, an organizational meeting was held in Johnson City by representatives of Frontier Health and suicide survivors to form a Survivors of Suicide or S.O.S. support group for Washington, Carter, Unicoi and surrounding counties. The S.O.S. mission is to assist survivors of suicide in their grief. For information, contact Jeanette at (423) 743-4419.
- The Carroll County Developmental Center in Huntingdon celebrated its 25th anniversary in October with a banquet at the local Civic Center. Barbara Brent, DMRS deputy commissioner, delivered the keynote address. The center opened in 1974 in the basement of Bethel College with a caseload of 24 persons. It presently provides 126 individuals with day, supported living and residential services.

Kile Awarded Governor's Trophy



Lana Kile, manager of fiscal services for the Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities, was awarded the Governor's Trophy for Citizen of the Year with a Disability.

The October (Employment Awareness Disability Month) presentation was part of recognition ceremonies for individuals with disabilities and businesses that support employment for persons with disabilities. It was held at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna.

Presentations were made by Frederic K. Schroeder, commissioner of the Federal Rehabilitation Administration; DHS Commissioner Natasha Metcalf; and Tennessee Committee for People with Disabilities program manager Trish Farmer.

The Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities is part of the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in Memphis.

The Governor's Trophy was one of six awards given on behalf of persons with disabilities.

Kile is a former chair of the Tennessee Developmental Disabilities Council.



Pictured at RIP Expansion Conference-From left are Dr. Joseph Wehby, RIP Director Kate Driskill Kanies, Alysia Williams, statewide technical assistance coordinator for RIP expansion; Dr. Louise Barnes, Children's Program Specialist for the DMHMR and Steve Kanies, RIP Expansion Project Coordination.

RIP's 30th Anniversary Conference Looks at the Past, Plans for the Future

The "state of RIP" including outcome studies adaptations and changes over the years, current innovations and directions for the future was the topic when the 30th Anniversary Expansion Conference convened in Nashville in November.

RIP - the Regional Intervention Program - is a parent-implemented early childhood intervention program for preschool children with severe behavior problems. It is funded through the DMHMR.

Keynote speakers, Dr. Matthew Timm, RIP director emeritus, and Dr. Phillip Strain, professor at the University of Colorado and director of Collaborative Educational Leadership, focused on a summary of the results of the largest RIP efficacy study to date. The U.S. Department of Education sponsored it.

Larry Thompson, DMHMR director of Child and Adolescent Services, highlighted the importance of the studies. "These outcomes are especially timely, as funding sources across the United States attempt to identify which programs 'really work' in order to allocate resources which support the most effective mental health services for families with young children."

All 12 RIP expansion sites in Tennessee were represented along with sites in Cleveland, Ohio and Yakima, Washington.

The conference was held in Vanderbilt's Branscomb Hall.

NAMI Address Change

**NAMI is now located at:
Colonial Place Three
2107 Wilson Blvd., 3rd Floor
Arlington, VA 22201**

**Phone and fax remain the same:
Phone: 703/524-7600
Fax: 703/524-9094**



Department of Mental Health and
Mental Retardation

Office of Public Information & Education
11th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
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